Besides the State-level Conferences, a one-day divisional-level conference was also held on 29th November, 2006 at Jaipur in Rajasthan. In the State of Sikkim the conference will be held on 20 and 21st April 2007 at Gangtok. Such conferences are planned for other states as well.

Panchayat elections

340. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force on Panchayati Raj Jurisprudence had recommended that Panchayat elections at all the three tiers be not held on party basis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Task Force had recommended regularizing elections every five years and uniform procedure throughout the country; and

(c) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The Task Force on Jurispridence for Panchayati Raj Institutions in its report recommended, *Inter alia*, that Panchayat elections to all the three tiers should not be held on a party basis. The Task Force has also held that elections should be held regularly in a five year period with a uniform procedural pattern throughout the country. The report is under examination in the Ministry and the Government has not accepted the first recommendation.

District planning committees

341. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have failed to set up district planing committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several States are unlikely to receive money under the Backward Regions Grant Fund; and